

Gloria Katz, a Writer of ‘American Graffiti,’ Is Dead at 76

By Neil Genzlinger

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Gloria Katz, who went from a struggling screenwriter to a sought-after one when “American Graffiti,” a film she wrote with her husband, Willard Huyck, and the not-yet-famous director George Lucas became a surprise hit of 1973, died on Sunday in Los Angeles. She was 76.

Mr. Huyck said the cause was ovarian cancer.

Ms. Katz and Mr. Huyck had only a horror film, “Messiah of Evil,” to their credit when Mr. Lucas, who knew Mr. Huyck from college at the University of Southern California, asked them to help him write “American Graffiti,” a film about teenagers set in 1962. Mr. Huyck, in a telephone interview, said the studio was hesitant about the film at first.

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